

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-11 CIAE-00

COME-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-06 OMB-01

CEA-01 /106 W

-----049329 271138Z /10

R 251550Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6134

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 1052

ALSO FOR USDOC BUCEN AND AID/RDP

E.O. 11652 : NA

TAGS : ETRD, EQUIP, BEXP, NI

SUBJ : COMPUTERS: IMPORTS PUT UNDER LICENSE/FMG EMBARGO

1. MEDIA TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED COMPUTER IMPORTS UNDER LICENSE AS OF JAN. 18 AND HALTED FURTHER PURCHASE, HIRE OR INSTALLATION OF COMPUTERS BY ALL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, PARASTATALS AND OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING UNIVERSITIES PENDING REPORT BY A GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE STUDYING GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP, USE AND POTENTIAL USE OF COMPUTERS. THESE MEASURES ATRIBUTED CABINET OFFICE, WHICH SAID PURPOSE IS TO ENUURE OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF COMPUTERS AND MAXIMIZE USE OF SCARCE COMPUTER MANPOWER.

2. OFFICIAL TEXT OF ORDERS UNAVAILABLE AS YET. INDUSTRY SOURCES INITIALLY ACCEPT PUBLISHED REASONS BFOR ACTIONS,
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NOTING THAT THERE IS SOME UNCOORDINATED PROLIFERATION OF DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND FIERCE COMPETITION FOR SKILLED PERSONNEL, RESULTING IN JOB-HOPPING. IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS HOW LONG GOVERNMENT FREEZE WILL LAST AND HOW LICENSING OF IMPORTS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE ADMINISTERED. AT LEAST SOME ITEMS UNDER LICENSE ARE, IN EFFECT, PROHIBITED IMPORTS BECAUSE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED NO LICENSES: BEER IS

NOTABLE EXAMPLE. CONSERVATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE, THE USUAL REASON FOR LICENSING IMPORTS, IS NOT THOUGHT A MAJOR FACTOR IN CASE OF COMPUTERS.

3. COMPUTER STUDY COMMITTEE IS WITHIN MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH SUCH A STUDY HAS BEEN DISCUSSED SINCE AT LEAST MID-1977, TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED ONLY RECENTLY. AN INDUSTRY SOURCE SOME TIME AGO PREDICTED THAT STUDY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT GOVERNMENT RELY ON SMALL, PACKAGED MINI-COMPUTER SYSTEMS WITH LESS SOPHISTICATED BUT DEDICATED OPERATING SYSTEMS. THIS APPROACH CONSIDERED REALISTIC IN VIEW SHORTAGE SKILLED PERSONNEL AND EXTREMELY UNRELIABLE POWER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS WHICH MAKE LARGE COMPUTERS VIRTUALLY USELESS. THE GOVERNMENT CENSUS OFFICE'S IBM 370/145 IS FREQUENTLY IDLED BY POWER FAILURES AND RESULTING MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS.

4. COINCIDENTALLY, THREE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU EXPERTS EXPECTED HERE IN FEBRUARY, TWO TO LOOK INTO GOVERNMENT DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM, ONE TO ASSIST WITH URGENT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA PROCESSING PROBLEM.
EASUM

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3717825
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMPUTERS: IMPORTS PUT UNDER LICENSE/FMG EMBARGO
TAGS: ETRD, EQIP, BEXP, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bdcea1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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